

THE
AMERICAN JOURNAL

79591

OF
HOMŒOPATHY.

EDITED BY

S. R. KIRBY, M. D.

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"The agitation of thought is the beginning of truth."  
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THE AMERICAN JOURNAL

OF THE

S. H. KIRBY, M.D.

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"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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NO. 1.

S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

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NEW YORK, MAY 1, 1848.

INTRODUCTION.

We now commence the labor of another year. After the experience of two years in editing this Journal, some may think the work comparatively easy. But it is not so. Our position is one of responsibility, and we need the aid of our brethren of the school to enable us to prosecute with more success a reform in medicine. We are contending against great odds in the dissemination of the principles we advocate. Our opponents know, if homœopathy prevails, a radical change must necessarily take place in the art of medicine which will greatly interfere with the interests of the elder members of the profession; for it will be rather a difficult task to educate such anew. With the junior members there need be no obstacle on account of age or time to a faithful study of homœopathy, and if these permit themselves, to remain in ignorance of our science and art, until age inter-

poses a barrier, if then their interests are affected by the reform, they will richly deserve their fate. The allopathic colleges too, those last lurking places for error, will soon show a more decided opposition than they have yet done; for so long as students are compelled to enter their walls, they will not feel it necessary to use any special exertion to arrest the progress of homœopathy. But the existence of one "Homœopathic Medical College," and the prospect of another, will soon awake those sleepy conservative establishments. Up to this moment they are not aware of the young Homœopathic lion crouching near them, waiting for its mane and claws to grow. Soon its roarings will be heard, its full grown mane be seen shaking, its claws projecting, and with vigor and a favorable position spring upon those who usurp the uppermost seats in the temples of medicine.

The most formidable opposition we have to meet is from those who claim rank in our school but who are not imbued with its true spirit. These must not be denounced, but instructed and encouraged, and by these means and by professional courtesy, they may be induced to a continued recognition of our art.

It is our intention to present our readers with practical matter in each number, as has been the case heretofore. And we solicit the relation of cases from physicians for our columns, especially where groups of symptoms have disappeared after the administration of a remedy. This kind of knowledge is of vast importance to enhance our *Materia Medica*, as well as to add to the testimony of the therapeutic law, and confirm Hahnemann's mode of selecting remedies. We have not thought it best to make this periodical the medium of all sorts of opinions founded in speculations, that some of our well meaning friends occasionally send us; and although we have rejected a few communications of this charac-

ter, it was not from disrespect towards their authors; nor from any intention or desire to control them in their right to opinions differing from our own; but it has been our purpose to publish nothing, but what agrees with the standards of the Homœopathic school; until experiments properly conducted and authenticated shall show, that the commonly received doctrines of the school, or any part of them should be modified. For, we doubt if any practitioner of our art in this country has had sufficient experience in what Hahnemann taught to warrant him in declaring his doctrine and practice especially the latter, erroneous. If it is so in any particular, the entire school in this country, with its combined experience is not yet properly prepared to point out in what the errors consist. We urge, therefore, a continued, and most careful daily testing of Hahnemann's practice in all diseases, and a copious publication of the details of the practice and the results.

By the publication of this Journal, we have no private ends to subserve, except those in common with every physician of the school; for if through our agency the interests of Homœopathy are promoted, all practitioners of the art, will feel the benefit with ourselves.

And because of this view of the subject, we do not hesitate to ask every homœopathic physician in our country to aid in its circulation.

MEDICAL COLLEGES.

Those who are qualified, perceive no union of opinions or sentiments—no resemblance—no conformity—no similitude—no concord or harmony between the Allopathic and Homœopathic schools of medicine. In vain have *eclectics* sought a middle ground upon which these schools could meet and harmonise. Experience as well as theory proves, a combination of pure Allopathy and pure Homœopathy incompatible: the result of such an effort is a sort of *mongrel art* in medicine, which is without true physiological, pathological and therapeutical principles, and directly or indirectly hurtful to human life. Homœopathy is exclusive in its character; and so is allopathy. They cannot be otherwise. In the former, we are not dealing with conventional rules which may be changed at the will of their authors, but with nature's laws, which do not change. Therefore allopathic medical

colleges do not pretend to, nor cannot impart instruction to aid students in the attainment of a knowledge of the science and art of homœopathy. This must be accomplished by means of schools and colleges of our own. We rejoice to learn that the legislature of Pennsylvania have granted a charter for a college entitled "The Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia." This marks a new era in the history of our school, and we shall no longer be compelled to urge, as has been done, the appointment of professorships of homœopathy, in allopathic colleges: a scheme we never could sanction.

Having, therefore, a regularly chartered College, it is essential in its organization to introduce every necessary reform, which the interests of the different branches of the healing art, and the profession have long demanded. There should be no imitation of any thing in existing colleges, that does not tend to qualify students to perform their duties truly and faithfully in the character of accomplished physicians and surgeons. Such will receive the full confidence of an intelligent community; and with such, there can be no competition with quacks and quackery.

The allopathic school complains of her colleges; she seeks a reform, but only two measures have been proposed:—A better primary education on the part of students; and an extended period for medical studies. These, if adopted in that school would not amount to much, as may be seen in the want of success in the treatment of diseases, by the most accomplished of her physicians—and for this plain reason, the doctrines they teach, are not only false but pernicious—and false doctrines in medicine, however well understood, and however great the skill by which they are employed, can never result successfully in practice. Allopathy has failed to meet the reasonable expectation of invalids; diseases remain uncured in the hands of the ablest men of that school. This is not the mere assertion of the ignorant, envious and malicious, but it is a sober, solemn truth, uttered by learned and experienced members of that school; and thousands upon thousands bear in their own persons the evidence of that fact. In view of the deplorable condition of the healing art, a fearful responsibility rests upon homœopathic physicians; for to them a diseased world looks for relief. Homœopathy is the only true system of medicine. This is proved. Yet not one in a thou-

sand of the profession understand it. And probably not one in many thousands of the laity are aware of the efficient means which they possess in homœopathy for a prompt and safe cure of their maladies. This generation of homœopaths cannot be guiltless if they refrain from reasonable efforts to instruct students of medicine in the great gift of the CREATOR to relieve human sufferings. To this end, homœopathic schools and colleges must be organised and sustained. Truth, religion, life, health, human happiness, professional honor and professional usefulness demand the propagation of pure homœopathy by means of instruction by competent teachers in schools and colleges under the auspices of homœopathic physicians, and the friends of homœopathy.

THE CASE OF THE LATE DR. WASHINGTON OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

At a meeting of the New York Pathological Society in September last, Dr. Parker gave a history of the case of the lamented Dr. Washington, which is published in the New York Annalist. We lay it before our readers because of the, what to our mind seems, most extraordinary treatment, even when Allopathically considered.

"On Tuesday evening, 24th August, the Doctor retired in his usual health, and slept well until morning, when he was awakened by a desire to visit the water closet. In a short period he had two rather copious, thin dejections. Soon after he had nausea, vomited and felt relieved.

In the course of the day, he experienced some uneasiness in the abdomen, and had sixteen ounces of blood taken from the region of the spine by cups, after which he was comfortable; and at bedtime he took five grains of Blue Pill.

At one o'clock, Thursday morning, he had a violent chill, and I was sent for, but being out, did not see him until about six o'clock. I found the Doctor quiet. Skin moist, and the pulse 78 in a minute, soft and open; the abdomen was neither tender, painful nor tumid. The tongue was covered with a slight dirty white coat.

As there had been no action of the bowels for twenty-four hours, and as blood-letting

was not indicated, calomel was advised, followed by castor oil, and large enemata, but no action followed.

At 12 M. the pulse rose to 108; the skin became warm, and colic-like pains were felt in the abdomen; on account of which the Doctor had two dozen of leeches applied, and introduced two grains of opium as a suppository.

At 3 P. M. I saw Dr. W. again; the leeches were removed and the bites were bleeding under a large cataplasim; he was easy; skin moist and the pulse 112, soft.

At 5 P. M. Dr. Borrowe saw him with me, and a large enema was recommended, and the encouragement of the bleeding.

A 10 P. M. we met again. The enema had been retained. Skin moist. Tongue moist. Mouth neither dry nor sticky. Saliva rather free, and it was thought there was some influence upon the system from the mercury. He was left for the night, with directions to have leeches applied again, if there was any recurrence of the pain.

Friday, 9 A. M. We found the Doctor had passed a tolerable night, and had some sleep. Had no return of the pain. Pulse 112, soft. Skin still moist. Tongue as before. Mouth less moist. No action of the bowels.

An enema of sweet oil was ordered, and ten grains of calomel and one of opium in two pills were given.

At 3 P. M. he was seen again. He then complained of pain in the abdomen, especially on the right side. Twelve leeches were applied, and the bleeding encouraged as before.

At 10 P. M. the Doctor was quiet. Much relieved by the leeches. Pulse 116, more contracted and quick. Had had a restless afternoon. Had not slept, nor had there been a dejection from the bowels. We remained with him two hours. Continued quiet. We left him with orders to continue the fomentations and diluent drinks, to take a pill of calomel and opium, and to call us if any change occurred.

At 3 A. M. Saturday, we were called and found a great change had occurred, the pulse 120 and more, skin hot and dry. Abdomen very tender and painful. He could not move without excruciating pain, and said "He was pinioned to his bed."

It was determined in this state of things to set the Doctor up, and abstract blood from the arm until an effect was produced, when four-

teen ounces were taken. Relief was felt, and the pulse changed. He remained comfortable until about 6 A. M., having a large sinapism upon the abdomen.

After this the symptoms of collapse came on. His pulse was 130, small and feeble. Pain and tenderness left the abdomen. It became tympanitic. The whole surface of the body very cold and clammy, and there was the cadaveric fœtor. There was a frequent eructation of the contents of the stomach.

A large blister was applied over the whole abdomen, which drew.

At 10 A. M. Dr. Delafield joined us in consultation. It was agreed to give the camphor mixture and the carbonate of ammonia, chicken tea and turpentine enema. From this time until 2 P. M. the pulse could hardly be felt at the wrist.

At 2 P. M. some reaction occurred. The pulse was from 130 to 140 in a minute.

He passed Saturday night without sleep or much change. The bowels remained inactive. Sunday in the forenoon he had another collapse, the pulse could scarcely be felt; but in the afternoon he rallied somewhat under the application of fomentations to the limbs of hot brandy and cayenne, and at 5 P. M. he had a spontaneous action from the bowels; at first a large quantity passed away, mostly the injections. Fresh enemata were given; and at length there passed away feces, large curds of milk, tomato seeds, &c. Instead of sinking, his pulse became more strong and distinct, and the body more warm. Still there was the cadaveric fœtor.

We felt, now the bowels were relieved, that if he could be sustained by stimulants and nutrition, there was still some chance for him. For four hours he retained what he took into the stomach. He did not sleep, but seemed more quiet.

Monday, 8 A. M. The patient seemed more feeble. Respiration was laboured. The contents of the stomach were often thrown off, some portion of which was stercoraceous. He was stimulated, and took an anodyne.

At 5 P. M., Dr. Delafield, having returned to the city saw him again. Treatment the same. The Doctor was evidently growing worse.

At 6 1-2 P. M. he rose upon his elbow to vomit; fell into a slight convulsion, in which he died in about three minutes.

His mind was perfectly clear throughout

the whole of the sickness, except that about two hours before his death he seemed to wander for a minute or two."

REMARKS.—Dr. W. was sick six days, during the first four of which, he lost at the lowest estimate 60 ounces of blood, perhaps 100 ounces, for it is difficult to determine the precise quantity from 37 leeches, and after their removal the bleeding promoted by poultices with success, for seven hours. Why all this? Does "two rather copious thin dejections," followed soon after by nausea then vomiting, which afforded relief; and some hours afterwards a sensation of "uneasiness in the abdomen," indicate in allopathy the abstraction of sixteen ounces of blood? Dr. Rush himself would not have bled under such circumstances. We should judge that about six o'clock on Thursday morning, things were favorable; but calomel, castor oil, and large enemata were advised. Why? We cannot answer. The fact that there had been no action of the bowels for twenty-four hours is no reason for such prescriptions, for he had had two rather copious dejections previously and there was no evidence of any suffering from a want of a stool. But, we have not the patience, nor is it necessary for us to examine critically the treatment of this unfortunate case; most of our readers can do it for themselves. A homœopath on Thursday morning would have said, "let him alone," or, in view of the loss of blood, he might have prescribed an attenuated dose of *China*, and such food as may have been acceptable to the Doctor. We see nothing from that time but the effects of the drugs and the loss of blood. Any organic lesion that may have been discovered on the *post-mortem*, the report of which we have not seen, would only go to confirm our opinion; for if there was chronic organic disease, such treatment would we think, tend to accelerate a fatal termination.

If this is a fair example of the practice of the leading members of the New York Academy of Medicine, we wish it never to come near our door. And until the gentlemen concerned in the above case, can present one treated homœopathically so utterly destitute of a foundation in experience and sound principles, as that one, we hope, until then, they will keep a little more quiet, and not stigmatise homœopathic practitioners of this city, "a set of knaves and fools."

We had some acquaintance with the late Dr. Washington and respected him, although

he was strongly opposed to us; but he was honest in his opposition. We know, also the gentlemen who attended him during most of his illness, and they rank as the very best practitioners of allopathy in this city. By no means do we intend to censure the men—but the system—the allopathic system—a system which somehow or other, deprives its votaries at times of the exercise of their ample natural mental endowments.

We cannot find it in our heart to speak evil of allopathic physicians, for we were once of that class ourself, and it took five long years to work our way out of the Egyptian darkness of the allopathic school. Experience has therefore taught us that the prejudice of education in medicine, blinds the mind—in fact, in some instances, closes it to the admission of new discoveries, unless they accord with our previously received speculative theories.

* In relinquishing my connection with the editorial department of the "*American Journal of Homœopathy*" to which I am impelled by the press of other engagements. I take leave to remind the friends and readers of the Journal, that when two years ago the project of publishing a periodical of the kind was undertaken by my esteemed colleague and myself, no circular was issued, nor was a single subscriber in advance obtained for it. The motives for undertaking such an enterprise were frankly avowed in the first No. of the Journal. The leading one of which was, to explain and to sustain the great truths of homœopathy as a science and an art, as they were divulged and insisted upon by Hahnemann.

If in such an effort we have labored with zeal and fidelity, the consciousness of any measure of success will fully reward us. To what extent we may have succeeded, we cheerfully leave to the friends of our cause, in looking at the present condition of our school to judge. That those principles, and the practice which Hahnemann founded upon them are the true basis of reform in medicine, and that a close adherence to them and it by those who may be now attached or who may hereafter connect themselves with the Homœopathic School is essential to its prosperity and full triumph I am confidently persuaded.

Although the Journal has a large list of subscribers, which is constantly augmenting,

yet its receipts have fallen considerably below its expenditures.

My worthy colleague in assuming the entire management of its future publication with a view to lessen the expense both to the subscribers, and to himself; will enlarge the Journal to 16 pages, and issue it monthly.

In his earnest and continued efforts to disseminate and defend the essential doctrines of our school, I am sure he will meet with, as he deserves, the countenance and patronage of its friends everywhere.

As inclination prompts and leisure permits I will furnish in the Journal whatever of interest it may be in my power to do, under my own signature.

In leaving the Journal in the hands of Dr. Kirby, I am pleased to believe that his untiring labors will be given to sustain it in a manner, that cannot fail to give satisfaction to its numerous friends.

R. A. SNOW.

1 Waverley Place, May 1, 1848.

CASES TREATED WITH HIGH POTENCIES.

BY DR. GROSS.

" 'Tis above reason,' cried the doctor on one side. 'Tis below reason,' cried the others. 'Tis faith,' cried one. 'Tis a fiddlestick,' said the other. 'Tis possible' cried one. 'Tis impossible,' said the other."—TRISTAM SHANDY.

A young married lady who had aborted twice successively, was again pregnant fourteen days, and sought my advice on the 24th of September last. The previous year I had treated her under the same circumstances with *Sepia* (30) and *Sabina* (6), but could not prevent miscarriage. I now gave her *Sepia* (200), and she had a discharge of bloody mucus. Her catamenia had always been very profuse. Immediately after taking this remedy the discharge became more copious, and lasted four days, so that I was alarmed, and sent her *Kali carb.* (200); in the meantime, however, the discharge lessened, and the *Kali* was not taken. On the 8th December I was informed that she had drawing and burning in the bladder and labor-like pain, especially in making water, which was of a dark color. It was now the dangerous fourth month, so I allowed her to take the former dose of *Kali*, whereupon the above symptoms gradually ceased. In January the motions of the fœtus were perceived. In February she again com-

plained of bearing down in the bladder and frequent calls to urinate, especially when the fœtus moved strongly, whereupon she experienced pain. I now gave her a dose of *Sepia* (400), whereupon all the morbid symptoms went off, and she was safely delivered at the proper period.

A stout innkeeper of thirty years had caught cold five months since on the railway. Thereafter he was affected periodically with a pressure, burning, and feeling of weight in the precordia, as if every thing were forced downwards, with general uneasiness. The whole abdominal parietes felt tense and hard, without apparent cause; his breath was occasionally short; evacuations hard and knotty. He had been affected from childhood with a fœtid perspiration of the feet. He had been subject to profuse nocturnal perspiration, which however had lately yielded to allopathic treatment, but at the same time the strength was much diminished, and he had grown thinner. I gave him *Plumbum aceticum*, (200), and in six days the patient was much improved. In fourteen days, he had no trace of the disease; even the ancient fœtid sweat in the feet had changed into an inodorous transpiration.

A young girl had not had her catamenia for six weeks. She complained of painful shootings in the head, especially in the forehead, and the eyes looked smaller than usual. I gave her in the evening *Belladonna*, (800,) and at night her catamenia came and the headache went off.

Herr Von B., aged about forty, with well marked phthisical habitus, who had frequently suffered from affections of the windpipe, fell ill in consequence of a chill. His ordinary physician called his disease an inflammatory catarrh of the trachea, and treated him for eight days. During this period, however, the condition of the patient grew so much worse, that the physician declared that he was suffering from galloping consumption, and would scarcely live a week longer. The violence of his patient's temper increased by his illness, was such, that he was not displeased to be dismissed from attendance on him; whereupon I was called in. As the patient resided in a neighboring town, and it was impossible for me to visit him every day, he engaged an allopathic physician, a friend of mine, to conduct the treatment under my direction, and communicate with me constantly. This gentleman did not conceal from me his

opinion that it was too late to effect a cure of a case so far gone as this. I, however, undertook the case, and found the following symptoms:—Tickling in the throat and incessant cough, especially in the morning and forenoon with profuse, thin, yellow, tasteless expectoration. The spittoon was filled in the course of the day. Speaking caused coughing at other periods of the day. He was forced to sit in a stooping posture in order to breathe properly. The pulse was about 100 in a minute, urine dark and hot, bowels constipated; no appetite, tongue furred white; profuse nocturnal perspiration. I gave *Stannum* (200) one gl.; on the fourth day the expectoration was diminished to one-half, but the perspiration had increased. A water enema had procured an evacuation of the bowels, slimy greenish and fœtid. The tickling in the throat was still considerable, and the cough distressing. I gave *China* (200) one gl. The sixth day he coughed less in the morning; he had little expectoration, and some difficulty in detaching it, and he sometimes vomited masses of viscid mucus. The tongue had become cleaner, but there appeared a quotidian intermittent fever, of which he had a paroxysm every morning, first rigor then heat, and in the afternoon and evening, slight perspiration without particular thirst. I now gave *Calc Carb.* (200) one gl. In the night the tickling in the throat increased with cough, and much perspiration; but in the morning he had only a slight trace of the fever. Bowels regular and appetite good. The expectoration had a salt taste. The improvement was very evident, but on the tenth day he had a violent attack of toothache in a hollow tooth, which appeared to him too long. He could not take any thing warm in the mouth, was very irritable, and I dreaded a relapse of the chest affection unless the toothache was relieved. So I resolved to give *Cham.* (200) one gl., which was followed by the formation of a gumboil, and relief to the pain. On the thirteenth day I found the cough very inconsiderable, no fever, a natural pulse, more strength, good sleep, the tongue again slightly furred, altho' the appetite continued good and the bowels constipated. I gave *Bry.* (200) one gl., whereupon the tongue became clean, the bowels regular and the appetite excellent. I saw my patient again on the eighteenth day and found him well all except a short, rather dry, morning cough, which induced me to give him another dose of *Calc.*, but this time

one gl. of the 400th. He got no more medicine, and all his morbid symptoms completely disappeared.

A dyer's apprentice came to this neighborhood with ague, and was sent to me to be treated for this disease. I found him pale and miserable looking, with a yellowish complexion and extremely weak. He had been attacked a fortnight ago, at first with quotidian, which had subsequently changed into tertian fever. The attacks were becoming more retarded. At present they appear in the morning—rigor, heat and sweat, all with thirst and headache. Before the paroxysms, great weariness and then headache, especially on moving the head, as if the brain were loose and moved. I gave him that evening one globule of *Arsen.* 400, but I should probably have done better had I given him 800, for the same night he was taken very ill; felt as if he would be choked: complained of great pain in the tongue—in short he was so ill that those about him thought he would die. His landlord thought that he had been poisoned, sent, unfortunately not for me, but for two allopathic physicians, so that I had no opportunity of ascertaining his exact symptoms. The younger of the two considered it a case of poisoning by arsenic, but in this opinion the elder did not coincide. Between the two the case was completely spoiled. Had they not interfered, olfaction of *Nux vom.* 400 would have allayed the storm.

The father of a young man consulted me respecting his son who had for years been addicted to drinking, and was unable to master this fatal propensity. His constitution had been ruined by it, and his digestive organs were in a very bad state. He promised me that his son should not taste a drop of liquor during the treatment. I gave him three doses of *Lachesis*, one to be taken every ten days. The first contained a globule of the 200th, the second of the 400th, and the third of the 800th dilutions. At the end of the year, I heard that, after taking the medicine, he lost all inclination for spirituous liquors, and has become a useful member of the society.

H., a sickly boy about four years of age, could not retain his feces, after having previously suffered from constipation. The feces were neither thin nor watery, but quite firm, and yet they fell from him involuntarily, and he was unable to prevent them; they fre-

quently came away whilst he was playing about. A dose of *Colocynth* 300, completely removed this complaint. The very next day he was able to retain his feces.

Overseer W., a stout man of forty, had been long plagued by a cough. It came, without perceptible cause, at all times, but especially after vexation, joy or any mental emotion. It always took away his breath, caused a troublesome itching in the middle of the chest, and a violent pain from the loins and hips down in the thighs, and finally heat and perspiration. It did not cease until expectoration took place. In the morning the sputa were gray in the day-time white. Respiration was accompanied by loud wheezing sounds. The patient was rather disposed to perspire and his disposition was rather irascible. He had tried many means without effect and latterly had used the Russian baths. I gave him *Ars.* 900, one gl. to be mixed with six spoonfuls of water, and one spoonful taken every evening. Immediately after taking the first dose the cough became worse and was so much aggravated by every succeeding dose, that he assured me, on the fourth day, he could take no more. I made him discontinue its use and wait the result. On the fifth day the cough ceased, and for several months he has not had a trace of the complaint.

A scrofulous country girl, who had not yet had her catamenia, and had from childhood suffered much from ophthalmia, came to me after having been long treated allopathically, under which she had become completely blind. I found considerable corneitis, with red swollen conjunctiva, little pain, but almost total loss of vision. In the right eye the pupil of which was almost completely covered, all except a very small portion, by a white cicatrix, she had still a faint perception of light. The spot that was uncovered by the cicatrix was slightly dim. The pupil of the left eye was, on the contrary, quite obscured, so that it could not be seen at all, and with this eye she had long ceased to have any vision. Not being at this time acquainted with the high potencies, I gave *Sp. vini Sulph.* (0). I moistened a drachm of milk-sugar with some drops of it and gave her daily about four grains of this in water. After four weeks there was not the slightest change. I then gave undiluted solution of *Hepar Sulphuris* in alcohol, one drop morning and evening. There then seemed to be a slight improvement in the vision of the

right eye, but the old state soon returned. On giving daily a drop of *Tinct. Euphras.* (0), the sight of the right eye improved a little; the uncovered space on the pupil became clearer, and increased in size. No improvement was observable on the left eye. After a fortnight's use of one medicine, I generally paused as long to see the effects, and if no progress was made at the end of the fortnight, or if aggravation took place, I then resorted to another remedy. I now gave *Sp. vin Sulph.* (30), in the same way as before and, though the former low dilution produced no effects, this higher one did, and the patient was enabled to read print with the right eye and even the left attained some perception of light. When the improvement ceased I again gave *Tinct. Euphras.*, a drop daily. There was very little improvement effected, and during the seven months I had had her under my care, I must confess I had not been able to effect much. About this time I became familiar with the high dilutions, and gave the patient *Calc. Carb.* (200) one globule; then the same of *Sulph.* (800); then *Silic.* (200); then successively *Lyc.* (200), *Calc.* (400), *Nitr. Ac.* (200), *Cann.* (300). Each remedy was allowed to act from five to six weeks: the best effects were obtained from *Nitr. Ac.* The right eye now sees equally well near and distant objects; the pupil is bright and clear; there is only a slight trace of a spot remains on the external border of the cornea. The pupil of the left eye is very little obscured, and the patient can with it easily read ordinary print, but cannot yet see distant objects very well with it. I shall, however, continue the treatment a little longer, and give next *Sulph.* (900). The remedies seemed to act more efficaciously when dissolved in water, and one or two teaspoonfuls given daily for five or seven days. I must mention that after the first dose of *Calcarea*, the catamenia appeared and have flowed normally every month since.

Bertha B., eighteen years old, of slender figure and sensitive nervous system, has long suffered from headache came on every week. Great burning in the forehead, so that she could get ease in no position; commencing on awaking in the morning, and gradually increasing, attaining its greatest height in the afternoon, with nausea, vomiting of food, and bitter bile; but slight vertigo. Carriage exercise generally brings on the nausea. She improved considerably until June; the headache became less frequent and slighter, d

only for a few hours in the afternoon, and soon went off on lying down unaccompanied by vomiting. During the whole time she had only once vertigo. As the improvement seemed to have ceased, and the symptoms were still the same, though much slighter, I gave her another dose of *Phos.*, but this time 300, on the 13th of June. This repetition of the same remedy produced an aggravation, the headache became more frequent and violent, generally in the afternoon, more of a shooting than burning character, with nausea. Once only vomiting ensued, with relief to her sufferings. In the morning much fatigue so that she was forced to lie in bed with bitter taste in the mouth and complete anorexia. This state of things continued until the eighteenth of July, when I gave globule of *Asarum* (200) in spring water, of which the patient was to take two teaspoonfuls every evening for a week. Eight days after taking the last dose, there occurred headache, with frequent vomiting; eight days later, vomiting without headach, and on the 16th of August contraction in the stomach, and flow of water from the mouth, followed by vomiting, first of mucus then of bile. This was accompanied by drawing in all the teeth, especially in the front teeth and after eating. I now gave *Bryonia*, (200) in the same manner as the last medicine on the 19th of August. She now improved greatly after two more attacks of severe headache, but without vomiting and once as formerly before the catamenia. This last circumstance induced me to give *Cupr.* (300) in the same manner as the other remedies on the 5th of October, since when she has not had the slightest trace of her complaint.

(To be Continued.)

CHLOROFORM.

A correspondent of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, opposes strongly the use of Chloroform; among other things he says:

"I have used 'chloroform' in fifty-six dental cases, after having severally exhausted every argument to induce these patients to forego its exhibition, and in six cases for ophthalmic operations. In one case, a young man, who was much excited with the delightful sensations, expressed himself as being in a 'most extatic state.' All the others appeared to suffer more or less distress whilst under its influence, and after resuscitation had

taken place, seemed pleased that the distressing dreamy incubus was not a permanent reality (it is true that they felt no pain) and none were willing to submit a second time to the "delightful sensations!" The "chloroform" which was used in these cases was as pure as it could be distilled, and applied *secundum artem* (if the term can be applied, so can it be to a man's drinking until he becomes intoxicated) and the symptoms were the same as in numerous other cases, when applied by my professional brethren, viz., the face very livid or turgid, and red from congestion, the eyes variously affected, a noise as if a "train of cars," were actually rumbling through the brain, *tinnitus aurium*, ringing of bells in the ear and head, sound of gongs and muffled drums, brilliant fantastic scintillations sparkling in the eyes, with flashes of light, and a thrilling unpleasant sensation running along the courses of the arteries and veins, similar to the pricking sensations all over the body known as the "foot being asleep;" stupefaction, with a knowledge of surrounding objects and the passing conversation, without being able to move or partake therein; a dreamy state, as if oppressed with the "night mare" with the same desire to be relieved; total insensibility, as if in death."

The mania for Chloroform, by Allopaths and Dentists, seems to have subsided; we have heard but little of its having been used for the last month in this city.

The *New York Journal of Medicine* for March, has a sort of two-faced article on the use of that dangerous preparation. We quote the following:

"But in all seriousness we ask, where is this mania to end? Has reason entirely fled the profession, and are we really the unreflecting, unreasoning herd that we are likely to be considered? For what is an anæsthetic agent? Why, nothing less than one which can produce temporary paralysis. And how is this paralysis, this loss of sensibility and of intellect produced? Chiefly, undoubtedly, by producing a state of asphyxia, a condition of the blood unfitted for the support, for any length of time, of animal or organic life. Something, doubtless, is due to the specific impression made upon the brain—the cerebral lobes, and the medulla oblongata; but most of the phenomena result from the chemical changes wrought in the blood itself. This is especially the case with alcohol, sulphuric ether, and chloroform. It has always been known that there was total insensibility during deep intoxication from alcohol, in which condition the arterial blood assumes the color of the venous, from the oxygen received into the lungs converting a portion of the alcohol into water and carbonic acid, by combining with the hydrogen and carbon of the spirit, and intoxication does not pass off until the blood has again resumed its normal condition. The same asphyxiating condition of the vital fluid is brought about by the inhalation of ether. But it does not there-

fore follow that asphyxia, thus brought about, is necessarily attended with serious danger, or that it would not be justifiable, under certain circumstances, to induce it. The effects begin to be manifested soon after the ether enters the lungs. At first the brain is stimulated, the respiratory movements are increased in frequency, the pulse is correspondingly hurried, but soon they both begin to flag, the respiration becomes slow, deep, and loud; lethargy is creeping on apace—the skin assumes a pale or livid hue, and is cold to the feel—the lips become purple—the pupil dilates—sensibility fails, and the whole body becomes flabby and relaxed. In some cases, although there is a general relaxation of the limbs, there is still a power of moving them, and the intellect and senses are almost unaffected, while general sensation is lost. The involuntary muscles, and the organs supplied by the ganglionic nerves, retain, to a considerable degree, their normal functions, especially the uterus, whose contractile efforts go on almost unimpeded during etherization.

The effects, however, of ether-inhalation, vary according to idiosyncrasy, temperament, and other conditions. In some, considerable bronchial irritation results; some are so excited, as to require considerable effort to restrain them; in some, nausea and vomiting are prominent symptoms, which occasionally continue for several hours. The conjunctiva is generally injected with blood, and the pupils dilated or contracted, occasionally fixed: The eye-lids are closed, and if the patient is unable to open them when requested, it is considered a good test as to the proper time of commencing an operation. The most remarkable phenomena connected with etherization, are doubtless those relating to the sensitive and intellectual functions. In some instances, the sense of feeling is suspended, while the intellect remains intact; the brain takes cognizance of external objects, while it either does not notice the impressions made on the sensitive nerves, or they do not produce on it the usual effects.

"This is readily explained by the doctrine now generally recognised by physiologists, that the seat of sensation—tactile sensibility—is seated in the great cephalic ganglia (tubercula quadragemina,) while the intellectual functions reside in the cerebral lobes. If these lobes were, as once supposed, the common centre of all impressions, as well as of the intellectual operations, it would be difficult to understand how common feeling or the sense of touch could be suspended, while that of sight and hearing continue. But if the sense of touch reside in the tubercula quadragemina, there is no difficulty in supposing it may be suspended, without the suspension of the function of the cerebral lobes. The same remark will apply to the sense of sight and hearing. But it is not so easy to explain why etherization should, in some instances, affect the seat of common feeling,—the special ganglia,—without affecting the cerebral lobes, and vice versa. Flourens and some other French physiologists have attempted, by experiments on animals, to show

the order in which different portions of the nervous system are influenced by ether; but so far as we have observed, the symptoms are not so regular as to enable us to determine with precision, which portion is first affected; at any rate, we have observed no regular order in the phenomena manifested. The intellectual phenomena, if any are witnessed, may be sad or gay; violence and combativeness may be manifested; passion, hysteria, &c., according to the sex, constitution, or susceptibility of the patient.

In experimenting with ether on dogs, we find they lose the faculty of sensation in eight minutes; and if they continue to respire it, perish in about 40 minutes; and on dissection, the vessels of the pia mater, medulla oblongata, and sinuses of the brain, are filled with dark-colored blood, also both sides of the heart; while the liver and kidneys are equally congested, and the blood throughout the body is black and fluid. We find the cause of death, then, partly in the venous state of the blood, and its accumulation in this condition in the brain, and partly in the specific effect produced by the application of a poisonous agent to the cerebro-spinal centres. To prevent these fatal results, it is found necessary in the human subject to allow of the admission of a considerable amount of pure air; but, as Mr. Taylor has truly remarked, unless there is a complete restoration of sensibility and consciousness, the poison must go on accumulating in the system; and if the individual be allowed to recover thus completely, it may be regarded as a commencement of its poisonous action, *de novo*; if not thus allowed to recover, he is in danger of sinking under its effects. Would not the continual exhibition of morphia or strychnia, as the same writer asks, at intervals as short as not to allow of a recovery from each successive dose, cause an accumulation in the system, and lead to fatal results? Is it safe, are we justified in administering it *gradatim*, from time to time, to parturient females, perhaps during several successive hours; thus loading the blood more and more with carbon, to save those pangs which the wise Creator has, for some inscrutable purpose, connected with the process of child-bearing? Surely, the fact that thousands have recovered from inhaling it for a short period only, is not sufficient to decide this question. Because a man might survive fifteen minutes in the Black Hole of Calcutta, we are not therefore to infer that it would be safe for him to remain there over night. Let it be remembered, that while ether is circulating in the blood, its carbon and hydrogen are constantly using up the oxygen of the vital fluid, and converting it into carbonic acid and water. We believe it will be found, as maintained by the discoverer of etherization, the late Dr. Wells, that the nitrous oxide gas, which contains no carbon nor hydrogen, but one atom of nitrogen and one of oxygen, will be found far safer than ether or chloroform, and will be preferred therefore by practitioners in cases where an anæsthetic agent is to be employed.

Let the advocates of indiscriminate etherization say what they may, there cannot be a shadow of doubt that numerous valuable lives have already fallen victims to its use. A few months since, the foreign journals abounded with such cases. Mr. Taylor, in his recent work on poisons, relates several unequivocal cases of this kind; one in which the vapor of ether was respired at intervals, for only ten minutes; and another during a period of thirty-five minutes, in which, he states, the vapor produced a perfect state of paralysis of the brain and nervous system, and where, on dissection, the appearances already described were presented. In some cases, where surgical operations have been performed, there have been alternate manifestations of excitement and depression of the sensorial powers, at one time resembling delirium, at another syncope, and again passing into violent intoxication, until the patients have sunk under the effects; symptoms, not to be confounded with those which attend collapse from an operation. The conclusion at which Mr. Taylor arrives, (*loc. cit.*) is fully sustained by facts, that the inhalation of ether must be regarded as temporary poisoning, with, *ceteris paribus*, a better chance of recovery than exists in most other instances of aerial poisoning."

The following cases we found in an exchange Journal.

"A young lady of Lawrenceburgh, Indiana, had several teeth extracted recently, while under the influence of Chloroform. For several days she remained in a lethargic state, and has since lost the sight of one of her eyes."

"A druggist's apprentice, at Aberdeen, while weighing an ounce of Chloroform, put some on his handkerchief and applied it to his mouth and nostrils. He became much excited, then laid his head on the counter, and died. He had been in the habit of inhaling it for amusement and pleasurable excitement."

BITE OF A "COPPER HEAD" TREATED BY INDIGO.

Dr. Edward P. King of this city, reports a case of poisoning by the bite of a "Copper Head Snake" on the inner surface of the left hand, which is published in the N. Y. Annalist. After he had employed various means, usually resorted to in such cases by Allopaths, viz.; cauterization of the bitten part; ligature about the arm; stimulants; the Doctor says:

"The arm now began to swell in a most fearful manner, the ligature held on well, and appeared as if deeply buried in the integuments; still the pulse was but slightly

affected by the ligature. The arm below the ligature was extremely livid, with an appearance of yellow spots on the surface. It had, however, a perfectly natural appearance above the ligature. Having endeavored in vain to arrest the further progress of the poison by sedative applications, and my patient suffering intensely, and being apparently delirious, I suddenly resolved upon having recourse to Indigo, which I recollected to have seen, about 20 years since, registered on a toxicological chart, in London, as an antidote to the bite of these reptiles. The thought was fortunate and the effect magical. I applied it in solution freely to the wound, and exhibited it internally in 1-2 drachm doses every two hours. The inflammation and pain rapidly subsided; so much so that I resolved on removing the bandage higher up on the limb, to the centre and upper portion of the arm, where it remained until the following day. The arm still continued to swell to some extent towards the last ligature, but exhibited none of the lividity nor spotted appearance which characterised the lower portion. The man recovered, and I attribute the recovery entirely to the remedial efficacy of the Indigo. Since the above occurrence, I have learned from an intelligent lady, that Indigo was also regarded by her family as a certain specific for the bite of the Adder, Bee, and Mosquito Stings, in that portion of the U. S., where she was brought up."

We very much regret that Dr. K. did not minutely describe the symptoms of the above case, so that we could show from the pathogenesis of Indigo, as recorded in our *Materia Medica*, that that drug was homœopathic to the condition of the case. The result proves to us, that it was so. Some of the peculiarities of the effect of Indigo in the human system are; the pains are characterized by great intensity, and slight mental derangement. Dr. K. says "my patient suffering intensely, and being apparently delirious." Other peculiarities of the effects of Indigo are; "the pains worse during rest and when sitting, and can frequently either be entirely suppressed by rubbing and pressure, or by motion." It would be satisfactory to know if this was not the fact in Dr. K's case; and also, if the pulse was not slow, and whether an excessive itching of various parts of the body did not come on, after the administration of the large doses of the Indigo. But, there is no use, for us to speculate in this manner, the case was interesting, and should have been carefully drawn up; but as it is, we only know that a man was bitten by a snake, and cured by Indigo, and Dr. K. deserves credit for a good memory.

THE ANALYST;

A Record of Practical Medicine in the City of New York.

Our attention has been called repeatedly by different Physicians of our School to this Journal—expressing some surprise that we had not noticed some of its articles, abusive of homœopathy, and its practitioners. We have read all those articles, but we found nothing in them, other than the commonplace misrepresentations which have been reiterated and answered a hundred times. We will however amuse our readers with a single example of the candor of the *Analyst*. In No. 12, Vol. 2, is the following; viz:

"DECLINE OF HOMŒOPATHY IN ENGLAND.—*The Homœopathic Hospital*."—The following resolution was recently adopted by the Committee of this Hospital. "That, taking a review of the present position of the English Homœopathic Association, in relation to the means possessed for carrying on a hospital in connection therewith, the Committee deem it necessary to declare their opinion, that, for the present, the action of the hospital shall cease." We expect soon to hear of a similar fate attending certain other institutions of similar character in other cities."

Now, what are the facts? There never was a Homœopathic hospital in England that we ever heard of; and we are quite sure we should have known of it, if there had been one. The truth about the matter is this; in England there are three Homœopathic Associations; one, correctly named in the above article; and the other is entitled the "British Homœopathic Society;" and another "The British Homœopathic Physician's Society;" we quote from memory, and think we are correct in these titles.

The first is composed of laymen with only a few Physicians and Surgeons; and established and had under its care a Dispensary, to which Dr. Currie was the chief physician; and his published reports show the usefulness of it. "The British Homœopathic Physician's Association" is composed of Physicians and Surgeons only, of which Dr. Quin is the President. At the last Annual Meeting of this Association, some of the leading lay members of the "English Homœopathic Association" made a communication, somewhat in the form of a petition, in which they state that difficulties had arisen between them and Dr. Currie, of so grave a character, as to in-

duce them to withdraw all connection with him and that Association. The result of which was, the organization of the "British Homœopathic Association" which is composed of Physicians and Laymen. Now, previous to the almost breaking up of the English Association, it had under consideration the propriety of establishing a Hospital, which was in the hands of a Committee, composed of the very men who at the time they offered the resolution, had made up their minds to resign. Hence the resolution reported by the Annalist, is a kind of evidence to prove the "Decline of Homœopathy in England" that no one would think of employing, except for purposes of deception.

THE HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA IN PHILADELPHIA.

Eighteen Homœopathic physicians of Philadelphia, and as many of the friends of Homœopathy as could be asked in the short space of two days, petitioned the legislature in January to obtain a charter for a Homœopathic College. They were driven to this by one of the resolutions passed in the National Convention of Allopathic physicians; according to which, a Diploma could be withheld from students who had been pursuing their studies in the office of a physician "not in the regular practice," notwithstanding the same was a regular M. D. It was obvious that this resolution could have been applied to Homœopathic physicians and their students.

The bill passed the House Feb. 12, and the Senate April 5th, and received the signature of the Governor, April 8th.

Monday last, the 10th of April, being the birthday of Hahnemann, the founder of the Homœopathic system, the Incorporators held their first meeting in the Atheneum, a majority of the members being present. Judge Parsons was called to the chair, and Dr. Sims, appointed Secretary. A vote of thanks was proposed, and unanimously adopted, to Mr. Ball of Erie, and Dr. Whitehead of Harrisburg, for their zealous and disinterested exertions to bring the bill in time before the House and Senate. A committee to frame a constitution and by-laws was appointed, consisting of Judge Parsons, Edward M. Davis, Isaac S. Waterman, Henry J. Boller, John M. Kennedy, and Drs. Jeanes, Williamson,

Neidhard and Herring, and the meeting adjourned to meet again on the 27th of April, at the same place.

ROUND HILL WATER-CURE RETREAT.

Northampton, Mass.

We have received a circular, issued by the proprietors of the above institution, from which and other sources we should judge this to be equal and perhaps superior to any of the kind in this or any other country. We have a personal acquaintance with Dr. G. T. Dexter one of the medical superintendants, who was at the head of a similar establishment in Morristown New-Jersey, and the proprietors feel assured in securing his services in connection with the other gentlemen, they offer a combination of experience, skill and accommodation, not surpassed in the United States. They have also made extensive arrangements and have spared no pains in fitting up a part of the retreat for the use and convenience of the friends of the patients, for persons traveling for health or pleasure, and for gentleman going into the country with their families, who will find this a rare location, with great variety of amusements, and accommodations not inferior to any hotel in the country. The extensive gymnasium, the bowling alleys, the billiard room, the shady walks, the beautiful valley with the broad Connecticut winding through its centre, Mount Tour on one side and Mount Holyoke on the other, and the rich and varied scenery which everywhere meets the eye, offer additional sources of amusement and health.

The proprietors are J. A. Cummings, C. A. Hall, Northampton; A. Clark, U. S. Hotel; Alfred Randall, Boston; of whom additional information may be obtained.

HAMAMELIS VIRGINICA.

Witch-Hazel.

A respectable Allopathic Physician reports, "I have employed the Witch-Hazel for more than thirty years, in one way or another, as a remedial agent. My attention was first called to it by the country people round me, who

use it for all manner of hemorrhages. I once met a young man going to market in his wagon, and having by his side a branch of the witch-hazel in full foliage. I knew that his father and mother, and all the family, no less than eight or ten in numbers, except himself and younger brother, had died of consumption. He, too, was pale and emaciated, and bade fair soon to follow them to the tomb. He told me he dare not leave home without the Witch-hazel, to stop his spitting blood, for as soon as it appeared he chewed some leaves and swallowed the juice, with the invariable effect of arresting it at once. He has ever since continued to use the leaves, or a decoction of the bark. Either of these, arrest the hemorrhage and relieve the pains of the chest promptly. He has since lived many years, although his health is not good. But I presume he owes his life to this one article. This is only one of the many similar cases of its successful effects. It does not arrest diarrhoeas so remarkably as moderate hemorrhages, especially those of the lungs, stomach and intestines. In hematemesis I have found it to operate like a charm."

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY.

The Annual Meeting of this Institution will be held in June next in this city.

Physicians of the Homœopathic School throughout the country, should regard it a duty to be present on that occasion; and from intimations made to us, we anticipate an unusually large attendance.

From the number of committees appointed at the last session of the Institute, who will be required to report at the ensuing session, we infer that subjects of vast importance in medicine will come up for consideration; and from the harmony that has heretofore characterised that body, we anticipate interesting and useful debates. All who properly consider "*The American Institute of Homœopathy*," must perceive, we think, the importance of that organization, to the promulgation of sound doctrines in medicine; and we are sure, that the disciples of Hahnemann will not permit slight causes to interfere with their personal attention to its interests.

We would suggest to those physicians who are not members of the Institute, the propriety

of joining it, that the entire school in this country, may have a bond of union.

TO THE MEMBERS OF "THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY;

And those who intend to become members.

If physicians of homœopathy would manifest a moiety of the zeal to promote their interests that those of allopathy do, they would command more respect and influence, and be more useful to society. The efforts for a very large attendance of allopathic physicians at the annual meeting to be held in Baltimore in a few days, is worthy of imitation by homœopathic physicians in view of the annual meeting of "*The American Institute of Homœopathy*," in this city on the fourteenth of June next. We can see no reason why one hundred and fifty should leave their business and pay their own expenses to attend the meetings of the institute, and transact business for a thousand or more who remain quietly at home, and who are at no expense or trouble and yet enjoy the advantages of the labors of the former. And further, it is rather unusual for those members of the Institute who do not attend meetings to pay their annual dues; but those who do attend, have to be punctual in this matter. We hope that those members who cannot be at the meeting in June next, will at least send to the treasurer the amount due from them, which they may know by reference to the proceedings of the Institute held at Boston in 1847.

HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL IN MOSCOW.

A homœopathic hospital was formally opened in Moscow, in the presence of the governor-general, Prince Setcherbatoff, and other persons of rank and influence. It is supported by voluntary subscriptions. Dr. Schweikert was appointed honorary medical officer.

We have several times met with an article on homœopathy purporting to be from the pen of Dr. Bell of Philadelphia. It is intended for a sort of review of Dr. Neidhard's reply to Dr. Holmes, what appeared some two

or three years ago. As is usual with all allopathic writers on homœopathy, Dr. Bell starts wrong. The following we place in our columns, with the deep regret, that we are compelled to admit the truth of what Dr. B., here states, viz :

"Among the practitioners of homœopathy, there are three classes: one consistent, acting out their belief; and another who, under the pretence of homœopathic doses, given common but small ones, and those of active and sometimes poisonous articles; and a third who are ready to practice either way, allopathically, or homœopathically, paying their own judgment and science the odd compliment of asking their patients, how they wish to be treated, and according to their reply either bleeding them or giving them a Hahnemann vial to smell, and caring not at all how they earn their fees, provided fees come into their pockets."

The people however, can easily protect themselves from impositions of this kind, by a little reflection, and conversation with the physician they are about to employ. Ed.

THE MILWAUKIE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL REPORTER.

A monthly periodical of the above title is published in *Milwaukee*, Wisconsin. Drs. Tracy and Douglass, Editors.

These gentlemen have a large practice in that city, and they are true to the principles of homœopathy. The following extract is from one of their editorials, viz :—

"We wish to direct the attention of our readers to a class of diseases which are more fatal to children in this city, than any other—we mean inflammation of the lungs and bronchiæ. No distinction is usually made between the two, and a distinction is not very important.—They are both usually called inflammation of the lungs. We desire our readers to recall to their minds the number of fatal cases of these diseases which they can recollect, within the past year, or the past six months, and even the past few weeks. We wish then to refer them to our table for the present month in which it will be seen that we have treated 26 cases of these diseases, one of which was in an almost hopeless condition, under allopathic treatment, and yet there has been no death. This is not all. We have not lost a patient with these diseases in this city. And this is not all. We have never lost a single case since we adopted our present practice. We do not wish the community to depend on our representation, but we wish to direct their attention to this subject, that they may arrive at safe conclusions from

their own observations. If there is a method of treatment which, large experience proves, cures every case, or even almost every one of these fatal diseases, the public are deeply interested in knowing it, and we wish to direct their own earnest observation to the subject."

Two homœopathic physicians in this city in large practice, within the last fortnight, stated to us they had not lost a case since they abandoned allopathy. One of five years and the other of seven years standing in the practice. Our own experience corresponds with the above. Under what mode of treatment is it, that so many children die weekly in this city of inflammation of the lungs?—Ed.

THE RIVAL SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE.

OR

Homœopathy vs. Allopathy.

A pamphlet of twenty-four pages with the above title has been sent us. It is a lecture by Dr. J. Bryon of North Port, L. I., and its publication was solicited by the audience who heard its delivery. It can be had for twelve and a half cents of Wm. Radde, 322 Broadway, and of J. T. S. Smith, 488 Broadway. It is an able production, and well worth reading by the friends or foes of homœopathy.

Letters received up to April 6th. Drs. Geo. Shipman, J. F. Whittle, J. Bryan, Lock C. Lyon, D. S. Kimball, Lester Keep, Chauncey Ayres, J. Jones. Messrs. Hiram Nourse, James Peacock, Robert Rhodes, Dr. Peley Clark.

HOMŒOPATHIC DOMESTIC MEDICINE.

BY J. LAURIE, M. D.

Fourth American edition, enlarged and improved by A. Gerald Hull, M. D.

A new edition of the above work has been issued by Wm. Radde, 322 Broadway. At the present time, Dr. Laurie's Domestic Medicine needs no praise from us; and it has been so long in use, its reputation is established. The sale, both in Europe and in this country has been extensive.

CASE.

Chronic Bronchitis and Worms.

J. D., aged 10 years, was brought to the Dispensary on the 10th March, 1840. She has been ill since she was nine months old. Has a cough attended by a yellow expectoration, which is discharged in lumps. Her appetite is rather ravenous; she is thirsty; the pulse frequent, and her abdomen much distended.

Prescription. Sulphur, one globule.

March 25th. The cough and expectoration are much freer; the other symptoms remain the same.

Prescription. Sulphur repeated.

April 1st. The cough still continues. She has passed several small worms.

Prescription. Cina, one globule.

11th. Cough as before; had not passed any more worms: does not feel ravenous.

Prescription. Sulphur one globule.

18th. She feels better; coughs only after running or walking fast; has passed more worms; continues thirsty.

Prescription. Cina, one globule.

25th. Has passed more worms.

Prescription. Cina repeated.

May 2nd. Is better, but continues to cough after exertion; the abdomen is slightly distended.

Prescription. Sulphur, one globule.

9th. She feels well, but coughs a little when she runs fast.

Prescription. Cina, one globule.

16th. Has coughed more during the week; especially in the evening.

Prescription. Pulsatilla, one globule.

25th. The cough is almost removed, and she is in other respects better.

Prescription. Sulphur, one globule.

June 1st. She feels no pain, but still coughs after running or walking fast, and expectorates phlegm.

Prescription. Sulphur repeated.

8th. She is quite well. On the 23d she had no return of her former symptoms, and on the 1st of July was discharged cured.

NOTICE.

The publisher of this Journal finds it necessary to require a compliance with the terms; viz: One Dollar a Year in Advance. Remittances may be made through the post office directed to the Editor, No. 762 Broadway.

Those subscribers who are in arrears for Vols. 1 or 2 will, we hope, remit the amount without further delay, as we need the funds.

Subscribers in Philadelphia, will receive the Journal as usual through C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth Street. Those in Boston, are informed that Otis Clapp will supply them as heretofore.

Volumes 1 and 2, bound or stitched, can be obtained as above, or of J. T. S. Smith, 488 Broadway, New York City. Price,—bound, \$1 25; stitched, \$1 00. Also of Wm. Radde, 322 Broadway.

Will William C. Roberts, M. D., Editor of the *Annalist*, inform his readers, what he means by "false facts"? *Vide Annalist*, Vol. II, No. 9, page 174.

DOMESTIC HOMŒOPATHY,

BY JOHN EPPS, M. D.

Third American, from the fourth London edition, edited and enlarged by Geo. W. Cook, M. D.

A new edition of this popular work has been published by Otis Clapp, 12 School street, Boston. This work of Dr. Epps has received the approbation of many of the friends of homœopathy, and being so well known, an extended notice from us is unnecessary.

Dr. Rush said "As bees gather honey from the humblest flowers, so we must listen to the tale of experience, though told by an old woman." Times have changed since the days of Rush; no one thinks of listening to the experience of any one not his own *clique*.

THE MARINERS' PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON;

Or a guide to the Homœopathic Treatment of those diseases to which seamen are liable, &c.
By Geo. W. Cook, M. D.

A work with the above title has been published by J. T. S. Smith, 488 Broadway, N. Y. It will no doubt be useful to mariners and and with the medicines to correspond neatly put up in a box, the price is fifteen dollars.

"Water," says Dr. Rush, "is the universal sedative of turbulent passions; it not only promotes a general equanimity of temper, but it composes anger."

Doctor Kirby has removed to 762 Broadway, fourth door above Eighth street.

foundation for therapeutics in theory and practice?"—Now this, we conceive, must consist in the establishment of a *universal law of cure*, which shall be the foundation of *theory*, and of a correct method of *applying* the law, which shall be the foundation of the practice.

The perfection of such a foundation would be, that the law, which is the foundation of theory, should also itself be the foundation of the practice.

In order to this, it must be of such a nature that the practice shall arise out of the theory without the intervention of any separate theory. For example: the practice of homœopathy arises directly from the theory, because, if the theory, "*similia similibus curantur*" be established, we require no independent theory of the action of medicinal substances, but only an accurate investigation of their actual, discoverable properties; whereas, on the contrary, a therapeutical theory founded on a pathological hypothesis (however correct it might be), would require that medicines be selected according to their agreement with that hypothesis: thus, if fever be ascribed to a spasm of the extreme vessels, and if this doctrine be regarded as our guide in practice, we must select a medicine in virtue of its property of counteracting such spasm; which is to introduce another theory, viz. that of the action of each individual medicine; and in strict accordance with the original theory of disease, all results of the medicine are to be discarded, excepting so far as they may be considered anti-spasmodic.—In this view, no theory of disease can constitute a definite foundation for practice.—But if some universal law of cure be pointed out, consisting in a relation between the actually ostensible properties of medicinal substances and the equally ostensible or discoverable phenomena of disease, this, we think, will constitute a definite foundation both for the theory and practice of medicine. But this, as far as we know, has not even been sought by any other school than that of Hahnemann, and hence has arisen the want of progress and of a definite foundation, notwithstanding the immense expenditure of learning, talent and effort bestowed on the subject during many centuries.

With the single exception of the Empirics, the method of cure in every school was made to depend on the *theory of disease*, not on the discovered properties of medicines, apart

from such theory. It is the characteristic of homœopathy, that it is not a *theory of disease* at all, but a *theory of cure*, and that it may be applied to practice, whatever theory of disease may happen to be adopted. It provides therefore, if established, a definite foundation for the theory and practice of medicine, because the universal law of cure which it points out as the foundation of the theory is capable of immediate application to practice, without any separate or independent theory.

II. We propose now, by a very succinct review of the principal theories of medicine from the age of Hippocrates, to show that no definite foundation for theory and practice has ever been laid, except by the school of Hahnemann.

We are not aware that Hippocrates himself ever asserted any general law or theory; he commonly contented himself with details of individual cases and the treatment which he considered suitable, though it is manifest from the habitual strain of his writings that his practice was founded on his physiological and pathological theories; that is to say, he selected medicines in virtue of their supposed relation to the supposed deviation from the normal condition implied in any given disease; and the relation is that of contrast, expressed by the words "*contraria contrariis curantur*." We cannot recall any passage of his writings containing the express statement of a general law more definite than this, nor do we imagine that even *this* was assigned by him as a definite foundation for practice, but merely as an intimation of the general end to be kept in view; for in *one* passage at least, he recognizes the direct opposite, in saying, "*vomitibus vomitu curatur*." But, were it even the case that he had laid down the principle "*contraria contrariis curatur*," as a fundamental law, he should still have failed in laying a definite foundation for the theory and practice of medicine. For, in the first place, it is manifest from the whole tenor of his writings that the state which he opposes is the abnormal state in which he conceives the disease to consist; that is, it is his own pathological theory, and not the symptoms actually discoverable; and secondly, were it otherwise, and were the law of cure expressed by these words "*contraria contrariis curantur*," it would still be impossible to apply it without an intervening theory; we must ascertain what state is contrary to a given morbid state, and what medicine can

establish such a contrary condition: what state, for instance, is contrary to head ache, to measles, to cynanche, &c.; for if the *contrary* to such states be merely the absence of the morbid symptoms, the rule is a mere truism, and amounts to this, "Cure each disease by that which removes it;" if more be intended, then the rule is an enigma requiring a distinct theory for every disease and for every medicine. The merit of Hippocrates, no doubt, was great; but it consisted in patient observation and faithful delineations of diseases, their course, their treatment, and their issue; and in the general design to reduce them within the province of philosophical investigations. His merit may be compared to that of Bacon, not indeed in pointing out a general rule even for the routine of inquiry but in accumulating facts from which by induction a general law might be derived, rather than to that of Newton, who indicated the one universal law which explained an infinite number of facts. Hippocrates may thus be regarded as contributing to lay a definite foundation by furnishing materials to those who should reduce the details of experience to a general law, but he cannot be regarded as having elicited any such law himself. The only sense in which we can conceive that the most devoted admirer of Hippocrates would assert that he had laid a definite foundation for the theory and practice of medicine is, that he may be regarded as the founder of what has been called the dogmatic or rational school as distinguished from the empiric; which amounts to this, that he looked upon physiology and pathology as the guides to practice. But even if it be allowed that the law which is to constitute the definite foundation is to be found somewhere in the region of these collateral branches of science, it cannot certainly be shown that he succeeded in extricating it, or in reducing it to any formula: for, while by universal consent, he is styled the father of medicine, and has in all ages been held in the highest veneration, there is, nevertheless, no one law that bears his name, professing to afford a definite foundation.

If our remarks be correct, we conceive that they apply to all that may be called the Hippocratic or dogmatic school, whether we view it as speculating on the forms of ultimate atoms, or as seeking light in an improved anatomy, or as analyzing and combining substances in crucibles, instead of bringing them

into relation with the human frame; though we should grant that the efforts of the various sections of this school were exerted in the right direction, we maintain that hitherto they have been unsuccessful, and that no law can be pointed out as a definite foundation for the theory and practice of medicine laid by the dogmatic school.

If we now turn to the empirics, we shall find them equally destitute of any general law; indeed, their principles forbid it; for as long as experience alone is allowed to guide, that school can be regarded merely as accumulating instances from which perhaps a general law may be derived by others, but to make this deduction *themselves* would be to contradict the essential principles of the sect; for, as soon as a general law or theory is advanced, the characteristic feature of the school is lost. The empirics, indeed, approached the nearest to the establishment of a definite foundation, because they pointed out that method which is really the best guide to practice, though they did not indicate the law which reduces to unity all the details of experience, and which thus should constitute a guide not only through the beaten paths of human suffering, but also through the *terra incognita* of each new malady.

For example: On the invasion of a new disease, as the cholera in Europe, the dogmatist and the empiric would be alike at fault; the former, to be consistent, must defer his treatment till he has formed a satisfactory theory of the pathological character of the disease; the latter refers to his experience, and finds it a blank; while the homœopathist, whose guide is in the very features of the disease itself as cognizable by him, is competent to meet it at once (we do not here say *successfully*, but at least *consistently* with his principle) without the delay of forming an hypothesis. He feels that a definite foundation has been laid for the treatment of this disease as well as the more familiar, and therefore he may undertake it at once without any conscious shifting of his ground.

Themison the founder of the methodic school, renounced the pursuit of the "*prima causa morbi*," but he adopted a system which amounted to very nearly the same thing. For while he classified all diseases under three heads, according to some supposed common feature, viz.—1st Diseases of confinement,
2d. Diseases of relaxation,
3d. Diseases of a mixed charac-

NOTICE.—A few copies of Vol. I of the "AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY," may be obtained; bound \$1.25—stitched \$1.00, of Charles G. Dean, No. 2 Ann street, New York; C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth street, Philadelphia and Otis Clapp, Boston.

Those who may desire to subscribe for this Journal in Boston, may do so at OTIS CLAPP'S Book Store, 12 School-street.

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